

One of the legends surrounding St. David is that during his schooling, a dove with a golden beak was seen playing by his lips, teaching him to sing the glory of God.

At the time of his death, just before angels carried his soul to heaven, St. David is reported to have said: "Be joyful brothers and sisters. Keep your faith and do the little things you have seen and heard with me."

For the many Welsh-Americans who will be celebrating tomorrow, I trust that the day will bring you the joy St. David spoke of so many years ago.

TRIBUTE TO LETICIA P. JOHNSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, there is no greater calling than attending to the education and nurturing of our children. For the past 22 years Leticia P. Johnson has been performing that very vital task. Leticia is a graduate of Brooklyn College and received a master's degree in supervision and administration.

Leticia believes that early childhood learning sets the stage for positive human development. Leticia has dedicated herself to getting society and educators to focus on the total needs of our children.

Leticia's participation in various organizations reflects her commitment to children. She is a member of the National Black Child Development Institute, and is the cochair of the Early Childhood Task Force. Leticia is also a member of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Conference Inc. For the past 10 years she has served as the director of Young Minds Day Care Center, sponsored by Fort Greene Citizens Council Inc. Brooklyn sees the fruits of Leticia's efforts each time a child is nurtured and educated in her institution. I am happy to acknowledge her selfless efforts.

HANSON POLICE CHIEF HAILS 1994 CRIME BILL

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I ask permission to insert into the RECORD a very powerful letter which I received from Chief Eugene Berry of the police department of the town of Hanson. Chief Berry writes to express his strong support for the 1994 crime bill and the funds that have gone to local communities as the result of this. His letter reinforces the point that it would be great folly for this Congress to disrupt this flow of funds by making drastic changes in this program. Chief Berry notes that his department and the entire State of Massachusetts have benefited from these funds, and as a police chief who is dealing every day with the problem of protecting the public safety in a small community, Chief Berry speaks with great credibility on this subject.

As a police chief, and as an instructor for the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council, Chief Berry is very well situated to

evaluate this program and his strong testimony in support of it should carry a great deal of weight. I ask that Chief Berry's letter be printed here.

POLICE DEPARTMENT,
TOWN OF HANSON,
Hanson, MA, January 31, 1996.

Hon. BARNEY FRANK,
State House, Boston, MA.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE FRANK: I am writing to you to share the success of the 1994 federal Crime Bill, specifically the COPS FAST and COPS MORE projects.

The Town of Hanson Police Department counts itself extremely fortunate to be the recipients of both of these grants.

The COPS FAST grant has truly allowed this department to address the community concerns.

The COPS MORE grant will enable this department to install in-cruiser computers which will add the equivalent of 2.8 police officers to the complement of this department.

The 1994 federal Crime Bill has reinvigorated the dedication of law enforcement in America through these programs.

As an instructor for the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council teaching many of the officers hired as a result of the COPS FAST program, I can attest to the re-dedication of the police service in preparing our recruits for practicing the community policing philosophy.

If the political leaders of our nation are going to play politics with the Community Policing programs in the 1994 federal Crime Bill, it will have a devastating effect on all the positive strides we have made in the last 2 years.

I know you will take an active role in the leadership fighting to retain the advances in policing we have made since 1994.

Sincerely,

E.G. BERRY,
Chief of Police.

IN HONOR OF FATHER JOHN J. MURPHY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take time today to pay tribute to a great man and community leader, Father John J. Murphy of Catskill, NY, in my congressional district. Father Murphy will be celebrating his 25th anniversary as pastor of the St. Patrick's parish located in Catskill, nestled between the Catskill mountains and the Hudson River.

Throughout his tenure as pastor, Father Murphy has served the Catskill community with an unending devotion, self-sacrifice, and countless hours of hard work and determination. Moreover, he has devoted a great deal of his time to ensuring that families in Greene and Columbia Counties have the opportunity to provide their children with a parochial school education in their own community. While attending St. Patrick's for school, it wouldn't be rare to see Father Murphy out front in all kinds of weather, even those Northeast winters, welcoming students off the school bus. Father Murphy takes great pride in playing a central role in the students religious education from their very first day, to graduation day and beyond. Former students spanning his 25 years of service still know they can expect a warm greeting, sound advice and guidance, or just an open ear upon their return.

Mr. Speaker, even outside his formal duties to his parish and the school, it is not unusual to see Father Murphy at all kinds of community events. I always have admired people like Father Murphy who go out of their way to offer their services to neighbors in the community, especially to those people who may not have the privilege of hearing his words of wisdom regularly. It is actions like these, Mr. Speaker, that make Father John Murphy a pillar of the Catskill community.

This year, Father Murphy will have been a priest for 39 years, 25 of which will have been as pastor of St. Patrick's. And on this Sunday, March 3, 1996, the Catskill community will pay tribute to his tremendous service on their behalf. At this time, I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and the rest of my colleagues in the House to rise alongside myself and the rest of his community in wishing Father Murphy many more years of health and happiness.

HIGHWAY RAIL GRADE CROSSING SAFETY FORMULA ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1996

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, because I am concerned about the number of railroad crossing accidents in northwest Indiana, today I am introducing legislation that will provide a more effective method of targeting available Federal funds to enhance safety at our most dangerous highway rail grade crossings. I am introducing this legislation with our colleague, Mr. Hostettler, and the entire Indiana congressional delegation, in a bipartisan effort to improve rail safety. This bill, the Highway Rail Grade Crossing Safety Formula Enhancement Act of 1996, which is the companion bill to legislation introduced in the Senate by Indiana's Senators, RICHARD LUGAR and DAN COATS, is similar to legislation I introduced in the 103d Congress (H.R. 4855). This bill would improve the Federal funding formula to account for risk factors that identify which States have significant grade crossing safety problems. The factors considered in the bill include a State's share of the national total for public highway-rail grade crossings, its number of crossings with passive warning devices, and its total number of accidents and fatalities caused by vehicle-train collisions at crossings.

Under the proposed funding formula established by my bill, Indiana's share of rail crossing safety construction funds would increase by an estimated 33 percent annually, from \$4.9 million to \$6.6 million. In 1994, Indiana ranked sixth in the Nation for number of grade crossings—6,788—third for grade crossing accidents—263—and fifth for fatalities, 27. For the current fiscal year, Indiana received 3.4 percent of section 130 safety construction funding, while accounting for 6.1 percent of the Nation's accidents, 5.9 percent of fatalities, and 4 percent of crossings.

Currently, in the United States, several hundred people are killed and thousands more injured every year as a result of vehicle-train collisions at highway rail grade crossings. A significant number of these accidents occur in rail-intensive States, such as Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, California, and Texas. One quarter of